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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/039,809	10/27/2001	Phillip C. L. Wu	IPC-111A	9476

7590

09/05/2003

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EXAMINER

LONEY, DONALD J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1772

DATE MAILED: 09/05/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/039809

Applicant(s)

Wu & Ku/

Examiner

D. Loney

Group Art Unit

1772

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

Pri d for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

- ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06/04/03
- ☐ This action is **FINAL**.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above claim(s) 9-20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Applicati n Papers

- ☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Pri rity under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
 - ☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.
 - ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s) 1
- ☒ Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- ☐ Other _____

Office Action Summary

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1. Applicant's election without traverse of Group I in Paper No. 3 is acknowledged.
2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

3. (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.
4. Claims 1, 2, 5, 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mackinnon.

Mackinnon discloses a polypropylene board that contains elliptical (16a) hollow sections formed from arcuate ribs (18) that interconnect the top (12) and bottom (14) surfaces of the board (10). The interconnecting ribs also contain gas pockets 16b, 16c and 16d therein. Refer to Fig. No. 4 along with column 1, lines 59-64 and column 3, lines 10-19.

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mackinnon in view of Sheridan.

Mackinnon teaches the invention substantially as recited except for the trapezoidal and rectangular passageways. Mackinnon does imply that other types of passageways may be formed (see column 1, lines 65 through column 2, line 9).

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Sheridan discloses a hollow panel also wherein the passageways formed by the interconnecting ribs can be rectangular or trapezoidal. Refer to Fig. Nos. 4h and the second one from the top of figure 4i.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to Mackinnon to form rectangular or trapezoidal passageways by altering the orientation of the ribs, as taught by Sheridan, which would impart different structural properties to the board as supplied by the angled ribs.

7. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mackinnon in view of Giraudeau.

Mackinnon teaches all that is recited except for the U-shaped ribs.

Giraudeau teaches to connect planar face sheets using a somewhat U-shaped rib (13). Refer to Fig. Nos. 1 and 4 along with column 2, lines 8-27.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to Mackinnon to form the ribs as U-shaped ribs, as taught by Giraudeau, in and or to impart the desired strength and/or physical properties that the U-shaped ribs would create in the board since Mackinnon teaches to form ribs in the board for these reasons.

The reference to Hara et al is cited to show voids (4) in a rib member (3) of a sheet (Fig. No. 3).

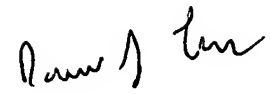
8. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to D. Loney at telephone number 703-308-2416.

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D. Loney/mn
August 27, 2003

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Don J Loney".

DONALD J. LONEY
PRIMARY EXAMINER